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Letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that the Iranian-backed Houthi militias in Yemen are currently detaining 19 ships loaded with more than 200 tons of oil derivatives in the Houthi-controlled anchoring zone outside Hudaydah port (see annex). Some of these ships have been detained by the Houthis for more than 26 days and have been prohibited from entering Hudaydah port, despite the absence of any other ships in the port. The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen is in constant communication with the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism to issue clearances for humanitarian and commercial shipments, including for the 19 aforementioned ships, in order to facilitate their arrival at Yemeni ports. As such, the Coalition condemns in the strongest terms the Houthis' continued obstruction of humanitarian aid to Yemen.

In this regard, the Isnad Centre for the Implementation of the Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations Plan has contacted both the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Riyadh and the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism offices in Djibouti to express the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's grave concern regarding this latest Houthi obstruction of humanitarian aid. Such obstruction will certainly contribute to expanding the black market for oil products in Houthi-controlled territories, thus filling the Houthi militias' war chest to fund their illegitimate war efforts and further prolonging and exacerbating the humanitarian situation in Yemen. Such black market activity will also serve to fund the illicit transfer of weapons technologies to the Houthis, such as the indiscriminate ballistic missile attacks by Houthi terrorists on densely populated civilian areas in Saudi Arabia, in violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and international law. The Kingdom also expresses its grave concern regarding the potential environmental catastrophe that might ensue should the lawless Houthis opt to destroy the aforementioned detained ships, leading to an environmental catastrophe and a security crisis in the Red Sea.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Security Council to condemn in the strongest terms this latest instance of Houthi obstruction of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the United Nations to relaunch its previously discussed initiative for increasing commercial and humanitarian shipments through Red Sea ports, including new arrangements for the management of Hudaydah port and city, as well as an agreement for the resumption of government salary payments and the preservation of essential government services in all areas of Yemen. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates once more the importance of placing

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the port of Hudaydah under international supervision in order to prevent the smuggling of weapons to the Houthis, in violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), and to prevent the use of Hudaydah port as a launch pad for terrorist attacks to threaten international maritime trade routes.

My delegation requests that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

	Vessel name	*Time and date of entry into anchoring zone outside Hudaydah port*	*Length of detention by the Houthi militias (days)*	*Type and quantity of shipment (tons)*
1	*Volante*	0906 hours — 26 March 2018	27	Diesel — 16 299
2	*Bahia Damas*	0242 hours — 29 March 2018	24	Diesel — 8 932 Petrol — 14 611
3	*Liana*	0448 hours — 4 January 2018	22	Diesel — 8 993
4	*Delia*	0430 hours — 4 April 2018	19	Petrol — 10 275
5	*Queen Reem*	1300 hours — 6 April 2018	17	Diesel — 8 215
6	*Selene*	0648 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 13 000
7	*Liaki Freedom*	0042 hours — 8 April 2018	15	Petrol — 9 563
8	*Carpe Diem-2*	1815 hours — 11 April 2018	12	Diesel — 21 015
9	*Lady Asra*	0942 hours — 12 April 2018	11	Petrol — 4 720
10	*Amira Tes Star*	1236 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 25 942
11	*Beta Tank-M*	1000 hours — 13 April 2018	10	Diesel — 5 000
12	*Vale*	1718 hours — 14 April 2018	9	Petrol — 15 431
13	*Motivator*	1654 hours — 17 April 2018	6	Diesel — 11 487
14	*Omair*	1930 hours — 18 April 2018	5	Petrol — 9 458
15	*Folk Elegant*	0406 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 12 164
16	*Trans Ocean*	0115 hours — 19 April 2018	4	Petrol — 4 983
17	*M B Gladiator*	2106 hours — 20 April 2018	3	Wheat — 26 970
18	*Ariana*	2218 hours — 21 April 2018	2	Diesel — 13 001
19	*Celanova*			Gas — 3 667